

RIOTERS FIRE PRISON

Fired by its own inmates, the St. Vincent de Paul prison, Montreal, blazes from floor to floor, while twelve hundred convicts stage an outbreak which lasts for ten hours. Fifteen buildings are set alight in one of Canada's worst prison riots in a generation.

Inside the eighty-year-old penitentiary, the convicts have run amok; the prison governor calls for help from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and from nearby Army barracks. The most urgent problem is to control the fire, which the ringleaders are said to have started with petrol bombs. Firemen are hampered by low water pressure, and have to tackle the fire section by section; twenty hours after the riot is crushed, they are still battling with the blaze in one wing of the main cell block.

The cost of the outbreak is heavy - one man dead, thirty injured, and damage estimated at nearly a quarter of a million pounds.